

TROPICAL STORM SHARON (06W)

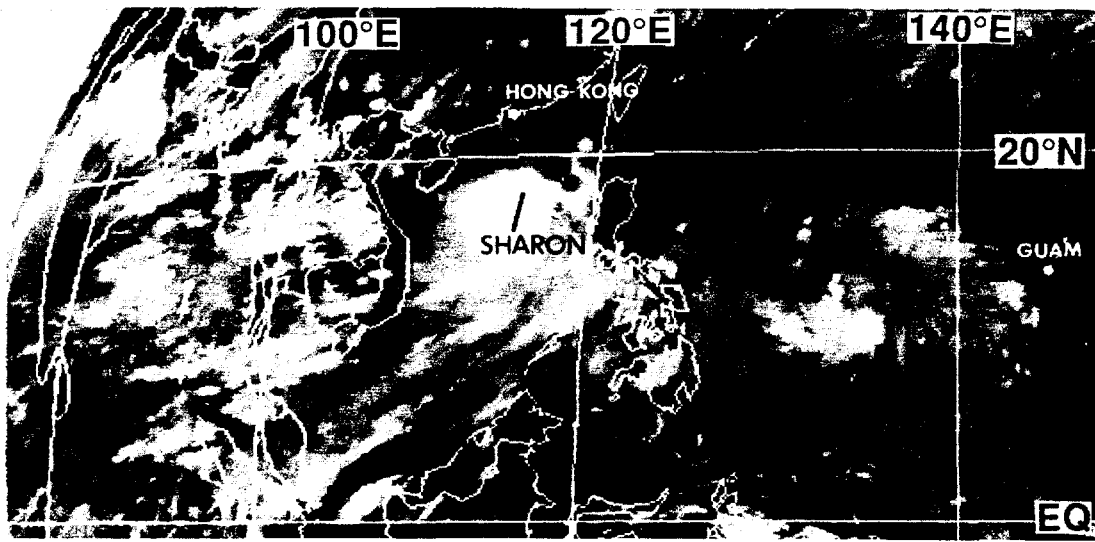


Figure 3-06-1 Just prior to its upgrade to Tropical Storm Sharon, TD 06W is located in the South China Sea to the south of Hong Kong. The lack of cirrus outflow northeast of the system center suggests that Sharon is being sheared by strong upper-level northeasterly winds (231230Z June infrared GMS imagery).

After Tropical Storm Russ (05W) went ashore in southern China on 08 June, the tropical western North Pacific quieted until mid-June when the convection in the near equatorial trough began to increase. An area of convection just south of Chuuk in the eastern Caroline Islands began to consolidate, and was first mentioned on the 180600Z June Significant Tropical Weather Advisory. The tropical disturbance moved west-northwestward at 15 kt (28 km/hr) and became more organized, prompting issuance of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) at 200730Z. When the tropical disturbance moved out of the predicted development area, a second TCFA (valid at 202300Z) was issued, followed by a 210600Z warning. Shortly thereafter, intensification arrested; most likely due to an increase in vertical wind shear. Twenty-four hours after the first warning, a final warning was issued. However, as the disturbance approached southeastern Luzon, it linked to the southwest monsoonal flow in the South China Sea that extended eastward. The convection flared again, which led to a regenerated warning valid at 221800Z. After crossing Luzon and entering the South China Sea, Sharon reached its peak intensity of 45 kt (23 m/sec) on the morning of 24 June. Vertical shearing due to strong upper-level northeasterly winds stymied further intensification (Figure 3-06-1). At 250600Z, the final warning was issued after the tropical storm went ashore in southern China, about 60 nm (110 km) east of the location where Tropical Storm Russ (05W) had gone ashore a week earlier. The combined flooding associated with Russ and Sharon left more than 1,400 people dead. The damage, which included the destruction of nearly one million houses in southern China, was estimated in excess of US\$6 billion.